

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF COOK COUNTY**



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**DAVID ORR
COUNTY CLERK**

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF COOK COUNTY**

**OCTOBER 26, 2000
(SPECIAL MEETING)**



JOHN H. STROGER, JR., PRESIDENT

**JERRY BUTLER
ALAN C. CARR
EARLEAN COLLINS
JOHN P. DALEY
GREGG GOSLIN
CARL R. HANSEN
TED LECHOWICZ
ROBERTO MALDONADO**

**WILLIAM R. MORAN
JOSEPH MARIO MORENO
MIKE QUIGLEY
HERBERT T. SCHUMANN, JR.
PETER N. SILVESTRI
DEBORAH SIMS
BOBBIE L. STEELE
CALVIN R. SUTKER**

**DAVID ORR
COUNTY CLERK**

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OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF COOK COUNTY

Meeting of Thursday, October 26, 2000

**10:00 A.M.
Central Standard Time**

COOK COUNTY BOARD ROOM, COUNTY BUILDING

Board met pursuant to the following call:

October 18, 2000

Honorable David Orr
County Clerk
69 W. Washington St., 5th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Orr:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County for Thursday, October, 26, 2000, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. in the County Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, at which meeting I will present the Message of the President to the Board of Cook County Commissioners submitting the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2001.

Very truly yours,

JOHN H. STROGER, JR., President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

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COPY OF LETTER SENT TO ALL COMMISSIONERS

October 18, 2000

Honorable President and
Members of the Cook County
Board of Commissioners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

John H. Stroger, Jr., President of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, has directed me to call a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on Thursday, October 26, 2000, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. in the County Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, at which meeting the Message of the President to the Board of Cook County Commissioners submitting the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2001 will be presented.

Very truly yours,

DAVID ORR, County Clerk

* * * * *

This is to certify that a copy of the above notice was hand delivered and personally addressed to each Member of the Board of Cook County Commissioners at his or her home address and was deposited in the United States Mail on Friday October 18, 2000.

DAVID ORR, County Clerk

* * * * *

The following Legal Notice appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times Newspaper on Sunday, October 22, 2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

John H. Stroger, Jr., President of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, has directed me to call a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on Thursday, October 26, 2000, at the hour of 10:00 A.M. in the County Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, at which meeting the Message of the President to the Board of Cook County Commissioners submitting the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2001 will be presented.

Very truly yours,

DAVID ORR, County Clerk and Clerk
of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, Illinois

October 22, 2000

OFFICIAL RECORD

President Stroger in the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 A.M., being the hour appointed for the meeting, the President called the Board to order.

QUORUM

County Clerk David Orr called the roll of members and there was found to be a quorum present.

ROLL CALL

Present: Butler, Carr, Collins, Daley, Goslin, Hansen, Lechowicz, Maldonado, Moreno, Quigley, Schumann, Silvestri, Sims, Sutker, Stroger-15.

Absent: Moran, Steele-2.

BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

to the

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2001

October 26, 2000

To the Honorable Members of the
Board of Commissioners of Cook County:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are blessed, today, to meet at the dawn of a new century, and to hold a public trust; one that allows us to shape the Cook County Government of 2001 and beyond, building a brighter future for those who come after us.

You and I have presided over a transition year that saw Cook County mark a number of accomplishments as the 20th century draws to a close.

A new Cook County Hospital, rising at Damen and Ogden, has passed the halfway point as we move public medicine forward. I recently spoke to a class of new doctors who will be the first to staff the new hospital.

I did my best to inspire them, recounting some of the rich history of County Hospital.

But, I should tell you, they inspired me.

We are doing the right thing, ladies and gentlemen, for the patients we will serve in the century ahead and for the doctors, nurses and other professionals who bring people the wonders of modern medicine every day at County Hospital.

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And the new hospital will save taxpayers more than \$400 million in total operating costs during its first five years.

Future generations will mark well what the Cook County Board is doing at the turn of the century.

Dealing with crime has been one of the greatest challenges of the post World War II era for Cook County and the nation.

In the past decade, our public safety spending more than doubled to counter rising crime. But our investment has paid off; crime rates are beginning to recede.

While we keep up our guard in the face of changing crime patterns, we must add to our arsenal a renewed focus on crime prevention.

Remember, Cook County's criminal justice responsibilities don't stop at the jailhouse door. We are required by law to provide the courts to try the suspects, the state's attorneys to prosecute the cases, and the public defenders to ensure that justice is done for those without the means to pay for a lawyer.

True to our missions of providing for public safety and health, we are building the first new courthouse in more than a decade, we are moving forward with major improvements to our health-care delivery system, and we are enhancing our services to populations and communities in need.

And all this is possible thanks to a solid financial foundation that you and I, together, have laid.

The new century will find Cook County with the highest bond ratings we've had in more than 25 years. Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch all give us Double-A bond ratings.

Ben Franklin, writer, inventor, diplomat and champion of freedom is perhaps best known for the wisdom of Poor Richard's Almanac.

Franklin offered a focus on what is important in life, then and now, when he said, "Think of these things: whence you came, where you are going and to whom you must account."

If we follow Ben Franklin's advice, we'll see that the public's money is well spent.

The taxpayers of Cook County, to whom we account, provide the resources to meet the challenges we deal with in this chamber.

Our watchword for the 2001 budget is discipline. We are stronger today for the financial discipline we imposed on ourselves during the late 1990s.

Today, I am honored to play a leading role--along with each of you on the County Board--as we prepare the first Cook County budget of the 21st century.

I am presenting to you, for the year 2001, a balanced budget of \$2.7 billion, an increase of \$99 million over this year. This proposed budget limits spending requests, keeps taxes stable for our homeowners, and reinforces our public safety and health missions.

The employee head count is down from last year and has been for the last six years.

The property tax levy for next year will be \$720 million ... the same as last year.

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Next year, as we pursue our public service commitments, we also honor our contracts with our union work force--including our crime-fighters and healthcare professionals.

We also will provide about \$3 million a year over the next five years for up-to-date election equipment that will ensure smoother Election Day counts.

I want you to stop and consider a few developments and trends that have affected the way we, as a government, do business:

- We have endured 10 years of public safety cost increases, expensive arbitration awards and higher wages and health insurance costs.
- Ladies and gentlemen, arbitration awards have added \$10 million to our spending this year alone.
- Hospitalization costs have added another \$23 million over last year.
- Half of what we spend as a government goes to one of our most labor-intense enterprises: Public Safety.
- Where most of our employees in other areas of government received about 3 percent a year in raises...various salaries in public safety have risen 3 percent to 5 percent since 1992...substantially above the cost-of-living range for that time.
- Let me give you an example: In 1994, when the area's cost of living was pegged at 2.4 percent, one category of public safety employees received three times that amount...because a 3 percent arbitration award was tacked onto to their cost-of-living raises.

And those raises already were above the cost of living.

Next year, our employees will start making contributions to their health care costs, and that will help. But we will need to take a long, hard look at salaries and benefits so that we can be fair to our work force and fair to our taxpayers, as well.

Our challenge in the coming year is to meet our public service commitments, while maintaining our fiscal discipline in the face of these financial realities.

We will meet that challenge.

First, I am directing the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Administrative Officer to have our industrial engineers review the County's operations with an eye toward evaluating all of our operations from a cost-benefit standpoint.

Next, I am directing the County's bargaining team to re-evaluate the incremental progress we have made toward reining in employee costs.

We want to ensure that the County's costs are in line with sound business practices ... locally and nationally.

Finally, we have to ensure that our revenues are broad enough to support our vital public safety operations.

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To ensure that the County will have the resources needed to carry out its mission of service, I will ask your support to broaden our revenue base with a nominal parking tax of up to \$1.

This non-real estate alternative revenue source would bring in about \$19 million next year, and make the County even less dependent upon property taxes.

Spending discipline and our use of alternative revenues has reduced Cook County's reliance on real estate taxes from nearly 27 percent in 1995 to 21.3 percent.

And, as homeowners can see from their tax bills, County government typically represents about 10 percent of what you pay in real estate taxes.

Diversifying our tax base in this manner, and controlling expenditures, makes possible all that the County does in fighting crime, building stronger communities and promoting health.

As part of our ongoing effort to share costs and work with other government agencies, we have an agreement with the City of Chicago that provided the County with \$5.5 million this year for a variety of law enforcement programs.

The money comes from federal grants to the city to fight crime ... and the agreement will bring us another \$4.8 million next year to help cover public safety costs.

We also work with the state of Illinois and that cooperation has brought us support for the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. We are using a portion of the latest \$6 million installment to overhaul delivery of health care at the J.T.D.C.

Our Juvenile Center will partner with the Bureau of Health Services to provide better medical care for the juveniles in our custody.

These kinds of cooperative efforts among government agencies pay dividends by allowing us to find creative solutions to problems by working together ... problems that might be too costly to handle alone.

The 2001 budget will provide \$48 million more than last year for public safety--a total of \$954 million. Public safety takes 51 percent of the general fund budget.

As you know, Cook County operates the largest unified court system in the world and the largest single-site jail in the nation. Our police officers, prosecutors and judges are on the front line in the battle against crime.

But in the future, we will make crime prevention a larger part of our efforts as we move to right size our public safety spending.

I invite each member of this board and our other elected County officials, in the coming year, to assist me in finding more creative ways to deliver public safety services in a more cost-effective manner.

We MUST right size the public safety portion of our budget which now totals nearly a BILLION dollars. Greater use of technology and smarter law enforcement strategies can help us take advantage of a 9 percent drop in the County's overall crime rate.

A crime-prevention program I initiated two years ago, called BADGE--Balanced Approach to Drug and Gang Elimination--makes prevention an option in the suburbs.

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In each of the last two years, police departments in 19 towns each received grants of up to \$100,000 to support crime prevention tailored to their communities.

I am pleased to announce that the BADGE program has been expanded to add seven more communities, bringing the number of suburbs we serve to 26. The new communities are: Burbank, Chicago Ridge, Forest Park, North Riverside, Stickney, Elmwood Park, and Riverside.

We also are working with Chief Judge Donald O'Connell, of the Cook County Circuit Court, to allow video court appearances for some suspects. This program can greatly reduce the risks, as well as the costs, of moving prisoners from lockups to distant courthouses for routine hearings.

And we're providing new radios for Adult Probation Department officers who work in the Gang Intervention Unit. This anti-gang effort already receives \$1 million from our grant monies.

The administration of justice in Cook County is one of our day-to-day core missions, and we've taken the initial steps in providing new court facilities for the future.

Early in the growing years of the 21st century, Domestic Violence Court and Traffic Court will convene in a new court center, leaving behind overcrowded and outdated buildings that no longer meet the court's needs.

The new court center on the West Side represents a \$212 million investment in the future, on behalf of public safety and the administration of justice.

In the meantime, we will soon complete improvements at the Daley Center that will provide temporary quarters for Traffic Court beginning early next year. And those improvements will be permanent, leaving in place modern courtrooms to serve our civil justice needs.

Our Bureau of Health Services ... which, last summer, celebrated the 165th anniversary of Cook County Hospital ... carries forward another of our core missions. I am proposing a 2001 Health Fund budget of \$722 million, or \$30 million more than last year.

Our modern health-care delivery system now includes 30 health centers throughout Cook County--up from 8 in 1991.

In the last year, Ruth Rothstein and I presided at the openings of expanded health centers in Ford Heights and Robbins.

We opened the new Logan Square Health Center, which marks a re-investment in Chicago's Hispanic community.

And we added the new Vista Health Center in Palatine, a collaborative effort by the Bureau of Health, the County's Department of Public Health and Northwest Community Hospital.

Soon, we will open an expanded Englewood Health Center. And, in the year ahead, five additional health centers will be opened as joint ventures between the County and private health care providers.

Our Office of Violence Prevention is working with the Morton School District's two high schools and 38 elementary schools on a Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program.

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This community-wide strategy will focus education and health resources to prevent violence and drug abuse and enhance mental health and social services for at-risk youth. It will help schools that serve 22,000 students in Cicero, Berwyn, Lyons, McCook and Stickney.

The Department of Public Health provides a wide range of services, including vision and hearing tests for about 2,000 children a year ... restaurant inspections ... and mobile screening of women for breast and cervical cancer, and men for prostate cancer.

Leading the way in the fight against the damage done by tobacco, Public Health is adding a tobacco prevention coordinator to translate our anti-smoking talk into action.

This coordinator will go to work with the backing of a \$1.7 million grant we won from the state. The mission is clear-cut: prevent new smokers from heading down the path toward disease and death, get more smokers to quit, and stem the epidemic of smoking disease in the hard-hit minority and poor populations.

We have earmarked \$10 million to upgrade wiring in all of our courthouses, the Daley Center, the County Building and at our health facilities.

And the 2001 budget year will see the opening of our employee daycare center in the County Administration Building, at 69 West Washington.

In an effort to expand services throughout Cook County, Treasurer Maria Pappas has been successful in providing taxpayers with 120 locations where they can pay their real estate taxes. Without a trip downtown, your payment now gets credited, quickly and easily; and the money reaches the County immediately.

Working with Sheriff Michael Sheahan, we're adding more local police departments to our Wide Area Network...a step that allows for faster fingerprint identification of suspects who may be wanted for serious crimes.

Soon, Cook County will have 107 police departments on-line for speedy access to criminal histories and mug shots.

Lead poisoning remains a plague threatening young families living in older housing. Science gave us the tools to detect the threat from lead-based paint...but it's up to us to identify the homes that are at risk and remove and replace the old paint.

Children through age six are at risk from lead paint chips and lead dust.

To screen children for lead exposure, and to find and remove lead hazards, Cook County will take action to make a difference in lead abatement.

In the coming weeks, I will name a Lead Prevention Advisory Council. If the County Board approves, the Council will have available an initial \$14.2 million to launch a Cook County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

The new Council will oversee grants to encourage education and prevention and to help property owners carry out lead mitigation and lead abatement.

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This new program is a good example of why we constantly emphasize financial discipline: The stronger we are, financially, the better we can help people with problems such as lead poisoning.

The Cook County Highway Department maintains a 577-mile modern transportation network, including 126 bridges...and 284 traffic signals.

Next year's highway program...with total spending of \$139 million...will bring improvements in the city of Chicago and throughout our growing suburban areas.

This year, we are wrapping up work on a \$9.1 million reconstruction of Vollmer Road, in Olympia Fields and Flossmoor...and we are completing reconstruction of Lake-Cook Road, in Northbrook and Deerfield...also a \$9.1 million project.

Next year, we'll carry out nearly \$21 million in resurfacing, re-construction and signal work from Richton Park and Orland Hills in southern Cook County...to LaGrange in the western suburbs...and up to Palatine on the north.

The County's Department of Planning and Development will carry on its work of investing more than \$19 million in assistance to municipalities...through Community Development Block Grants, Home Investment Partnership funds and Emergency Shelter Grants.

The year 2001 looms as a signal event...and we have made significant strides to ensure that the County is funded while minimizing the burden on homeowners.

Since I've taken office, I've reduced about 1,000 positions from offices and agencies under the County Board President...including the health sector.

We will need to take this challenge to our financial resources seriously in the months ahead. Please, be my partners in this endeavor.

We must ensure that labor and health costs don't spiral out of control.

Again, Ben Franklin's words on the subject of virtue, are valuable today:

"The scriptures assure me that, at the last day, we shall not be examined on what we thought...but what we did."

What we do here, in this century and the next, matters greatly to those we serve.

In short, we are making a difference.

Thank you.

JOHN H. STROGER, JR., President

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The Message of the President to the Board of Cook County Commissioners was given by President Stroger.

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President Stroger then submitted the Executive Budget to the Board of Commissioners for the Fiscal Year 2001, for referral to the Committee on Finance.

Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Carr, moved that the President's Executive Budget be referred to the Committee on Finance. **The motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Carr, moved that the Special Meeting do now adjourn.

ROLL CALL

Present: Butler, Carr, Collins, Daley, Goslin, Hansen, Lechowicz, Maldonado, Moreno, Quigley, Schumann, Silvestri, Sims, Sutker, Stroger-15.

Absent: Moran, Steele-2.

The motion prevailed and the Special Meeting stood adjourned.

The next regular County Board Meeting is scheduled by law, for Thursday, November 2, 2000.

County Clerk